

# DAILY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 6, 2004

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## GLOBAL REFUGEE NUMBERS DOWN AS U.S. ADMISSIONS INCREASE

Top U.S. refugee official speaks to global assembly

The worldwide refugee population declined by 17 percent in 2004, predominantly to the "liberation of several entire societies," said U.S. Assistant Secretary for Refugees Arthur E. "Gene" Dewey, speaking to a meeting of the executive committee of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva October 4.

Dewey said a large part of the overall decline in refugees could be attributed to the return of stability in several nations with longstanding wars -- Liberia, Angola, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. Donor states have contributed to the effort, working together for the repatriation of almost 4 million refugees over the last two years.

Dewey also noted the resettlement of almost 53,000 refugees in the United States in 2004, the highest one-year total since 2001.

In addition, Dewey praised the work that UNHCR has done in mounting an effective emergency response to the humanitarian situation in Darfur and establishing refugee camps in neighboring Chad. Saluting that "operational excellence for refugee protection and solutions," Dewey said the U.S. commitment to provide approximately \$300 million annually to UNHCR is justified.

The UNHCR executive committee comprises 66 nations. The annual meeting continues through October 8.

More information is available at <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/news>

The following terms are used in the text:

EXCOM: executive committee  
IDP: internally displaced persons  
MSF: Medecins Sans Frontieres

The text of Dewey's statement, as prepared for delivery, follows:

(begin text)

UNHCR Executive Committee 55th Session  
USG Plenary Statement

Arthur E. Dewey  
Assistant Secretary of State For Population, Refugees and Migration  
Head of Delegation

Mr. Chairman, Mr. High Commissioner, Distinguished Colleagues:

We welcome Ambassadors Escudero of Ecuador and Oshima of Japan as new Chair and Vice-Chair, and Ms. Anne Blomberg of Sweden as Rapporteur. We are pleased that Egypt and Zambia, two generous refugee-hosting countries, are joining us today as new members of EXCOM.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the High Commissioner for his comprehensive overview that reflects the challenges and successes of the past year. We have met these challenges and achieved these successes by working together multilaterally. I also want to say how glad I am to see World Food Program Executive Director Jim Morris at EXCOM. Regular and adequate food for refugees is vital but pipeline breaks continue to plague our efforts. The panel discussion on food later today should underscore for under-performing donors that WFP still lacks, and must have, the resources to do its job.

This year, refugee solutions have reduced the worldwide refugee population by 17 percent. Yet, we still have all too many protracted situations where progress towards

solution is either too slow, or seems to be going nowhere. Advocacy groups have recently re-raised a serious problem with which we have been wrestling for years - refugee warehousing. But we are no longer just wringing our hands about warehousing. We have had some dramatic "dewarehousing" breakthroughs in the last two years. These breakthroughs have not happened by accident. Rather, they have been made possible through the liberation of several entire societies and by the generous resources provided by serious donor states that have worked together multilaterally to bring about the repatriation of nearly four million refugees over the last two years.

These refugees have gone home to Liberia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Iraq. I am delighted to see that Minister Isho of Iraq is here with us today. Her dedication to refugee and IDP returns is both an inspiration and a model. UNHCR's role has been crucial to these repatriation success stories, and we are witnessing one of its finest hours in this regard.

An important ingredient in these successes is a sustained international effort to provide sustenance and jobs until governments can take over these services. Countries need to include refugees in their national development plans. Returnees need long-term transitional help and employment opportunities, such as the Afghan Conservation Corps, to restore their dignity and self-reliance. We want refugees to return home voluntarily and as we have said for years in EXCOM conclusions in safety and dignity.

Mr. Chairman,

As a practical matter, where we are blocked on one refugee solution front, we must move on others. UNHCR is developing a much-needed culture of resettlement. The U.S. commitment to resettlement remains strong. I am pleased to report that we exceeded our goal of admitting 50,000 refugees this fiscal year. The final total was 52,875, as compared to fewer than 29,000 each of the previous two years. The increase is a tribute to the new initiatives we have undertaken in response to the changing refugee environment. One of these was providing substantial funding to enhance UNHCR's resettlement capacity to identify and refer refugees to resettlement countries. The results of this effort are evident in thousands of new referrals in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express our support for the proposal to create an Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.

This would give new gravitas to the care and protection of refugee women and refugee children. And we are pleased to hear that the long-promised Special Advisor to the High Commissioner for Gender Issues will soon be on board.

Looking ahead, we encourage UNHCR to continue to strengthen its operational performance. Much has been done in the past year - the roll-out of Project Profile and the Management Systems Renewal Project, the development of standards and indicators, and the beginning of the integration of gender and age into the way UNHCR does business.

We now look forward to the impact of the implementation of new human resources policy and to better management of UNHCR's most valuable asset - its dedicated staff.

We look forward to a more concerted effort to carry out assessments of real needs and to identify gaps in protection and assistance.

We look forward to improved operational coordination between UNHCR and its international organization peers, and especially with its NGO implementing partners.

And, we look forward to a predictable, rapid and effective emergency response. The challenge of caring for some 200,000 refugees in Chad is tremendous. I was pleased to be able to visit the region with the High Commissioner and other donor colleagues. I salute the heroic work done by the field staff of UNHCR and NGOs, in particularly in moving so many people from the border so quickly into the camps.

Emergency response is UNHCR's job. UNHCR must ask for the resources it needs to do this job. It must better support its staff. It must ensure that an adequate core of experienced international professional staff members is deployed quickly to wherever they are needed. The pool of candidates for "A" team deployments must be expanded. UNHCR must move more quickly on determining which operational partner will undertake which activity, then get the money to them as soon as possible, and finally, oversee their effectiveness, providing advice and expertise where necessary.

The United States is there to help. We remain your strong supporter. Your competence and your performance are directly related to Member States' active interest in your mandate and your operations. In 2003, we provided \$307 million; in 2004, to date, we have provided approximately \$297 million. We can continue to justify this our commitment to multilateralism to our Congress and the American people as long as UNHCR remains a center of operational excellence for refugee protection and solutions.

I would like to thank those countries that have provided and continue to provide refuge to those fleeing conflict and violence. These countries of refuge are our strong partners in good humanitarian donorship.

Tragically, refugees are too often not sufficiently protected, as the horrifying murder of some 160 Congolese refugees in Burundi attests. I thought we had left behind the barbarism that used to occur with armed attacks on refugee camps. We must go beyond our sorrow and regret to supporting measures to stop these unspeakable crimes against humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

Humanitarian workers are the indispensable force for good - and the force that lacks protection. The recent regrettable departure of MSF from Afghanistan is the latest indication of how dangerous humanitarian work has become. The protection of our brave and tough humanitarian workers, while keeping them on the job, is the major challenge of our times. I salute you, the staff of UNHCR and those who work with you, for your continued willingness to face this challenge.

(end text)

## U.S. SAYS U.N. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON GAZA ENCOURAGES TERRORISM

Text: Amb. Danforth's UNSC remarks Oct. 5 on  
Mideast vote

Vetoing an Arab-sponsored draft resolution on Israeli military operations in Gaza, U.S. Ambassador John Danforth said October 5 that the text lacked credibility and balance, was dangerously disingenuous, and ultimately would embolden terrorists and encourage counterattacks. The draft resolution demanded the immediate cessation of all Israeli military operations in the area of northern Gaza and the withdrawal of Israeli forces. It condemned Israel's military incursions and attacks in northern Gaza. The vote was 11 in favor, the United States against and Germany, Romania, and the United Kingdom abstaining.

Addressing the council before the vote, Danforth said that the resolution did not mention the Qassam rocket attacks against Israel, the Israeli children and civilians killed, the fact that terrorists hide among Palestinian civilians provoking their deaths, or "the complete failure of the Palestinian Authority to meet its commitments to establish security among its people."

"The silence here today is deafening," the ambassador said. "When the rest of the world gangs up on Israel with insidious silence about terrorism, it does not advance the cause of peace. It encourages both sides to dig in; it makes Israel feel isolated and backed into a corner and it discourages dialogue."

The U.S. approach is to recognize that both sides must renounce violence, recommit to the roadmap for Mideast peace, and move quickly to establish a Palestinian state, Danforth said.

Following is the text of the ambassador's remarks:  
(begin transcript)

Explanation of Vote by Ambassador John C. Danforth, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, on the Resolution Addressing the Situation in the Middle East, in the Security Council, October 5, 2004.

We have before us yet another resolution regarding the Middle East situation...And, once again, the resolution is lopsided and unbalanced; it is dangerously disingenuous because of its many material omissions. Because of this lack of balance, because of these omissions, the resolution lacks credibility and deserves a "no" vote.

As you consider the current resolution, I ask you to perform a simple analysis. Consider first what the resolution says, and then what it fails to say. The resolution "condemns" Israel's military actions in Gaza; it criticizes "incursions" into the Jabaliya refugee camp; it condemns Israeli acts of "destruction," and it laments "extensive human casualties" among Palestinians. It "demands" that Israel, as the "occupying power," withdraw its forces immediately. Tough words.

The United States has no problem with tough words, but only when they are accurate and there is balance.

Now consider what this resolution does not say. It does not mention even one of the 450 Qassam rocket attacks launched against Israel over the past two years. It does not mention two hundred rockets launched this year alone. It does not mention the two Israeli children who were outside playing last week when a rocket suddenly crashed into their young bodies. It does not mention the undisputed fact that Qassam rockets have no military purpose -- that they are crude, imprecise devices of terror designed to kill civilians. It does not mention that Hamas took "credit" for killing these Israeli children and maiming many other Israeli civilians -- calling these deaths and woundings a "victory." It does not mention that the terrorists hide among Palestinian civilians, provoking their deaths, and then use those deaths as fodder for their hatred, lawlessness, and efforts to derail the peace process. It does not mention the complete failure of the Palestinian authority to meet its commitments to establish security among its people. It does not mention any of these facts, nor does it acknowledge the legitimate need for Israel to defend itself. The resolution is totally lacking in balance.

There is an old saying that silence indicates consent. The silence here today is deafening. I said yesterday, and I reiterate today, that when the rest of the world gangs up on Israel with insidious silence about terrorism, it does not advance the cause of peace. It encourages both sides to dig in; it makes Israel feel isolated and backed into a corner, and it discourages dialogue.

The approach of the United States is to recognize that both sides need to renounce violence, that both sides need to recommit to the roadmap, and that both sides need to move quickly to establish a Palestinian state. But until the Palestinians and those claiming to act in their name stop their use of indiscriminate acts of terror, Israel

will likely continue to track down the terrorists wherever they may hide, often with the tragic, but unintended result of civilian casualties.

My friend Ambassador Baali reminded me that it is very important to take an even-handed approach when it comes to describing civilian casualties. Civilian casualties are always tragic. The death of children is especially tragic. It is tragic when they are Israeli children; it is tragic when they are Israeli civilians. It is tragic when they are Palestinian children, and Palestinian civilians. But where the death of civilians is intentional, but where the death of civilians is the sole purpose of the attack, it is not only tragic it is reprehensible.

The resolution today not only encourages the terrorists; it will not do anything prevent the predictable Israeli response. Ultimately, a resolution like this emboldens terrorists, encourages counterattacks, and contributes to the ultimate terrorist goal of derailing the peace process.

The Security Council should reverse the incessant stream of one anti-Israel resolution after the other, and apply pressure even handedly, on both sides, to return to the road to peace. The United States will vote "no" on this resolution. (end transcript)

#### U.S. LABOR DEPT. GIVES \$110 MILLION IN 2004 TO FIGHT CHILD LABOR

Funds aimed at removing young workers from abuse, providing education

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in the fiscal year that ended September 30 awarded more than \$110 million to fight international child labor.

In an October 1 press release, the Labor Department said the grants were for programs that help remove young workers from abusive work situations and improve access to basic education in areas having high incidences of exploitive child labor.

The department said that in 2004 it awarded \$67.5 million under its Child Labor Education Initiative and \$42.7 million to the child-labor elimination program of the

U.N. International Labor Organization (ILO).

The Labor Department funds targeted programs that address exploitative child labor in a specific industry, country or region; educational programs that focus on child laborers and children at risk of being exploited; research and statistical programs to collect data needed to define the extent of exploitive child labor; projects to support a country's participation in the ILO's child-labor elimination program; and comprehensive national programs to achieve dramatic reductions in exploitive child labor.

The department also announced, in an October 4 press release, that it had awarded \$23 million to the aid groups World Vision and Catholic Relief Services for education programs in Africa and Latin America.

Following is the text of Labor's October 1 press release: (begin text)

U.S. Department of Labor News Release  
10/01/2004

United States Provides over \$110 Million in Grants to Fight Exploitive Child Labor Around the World  
WASHINGTON -- To emphasize the United States commitment to eliminating the worst forms of child labor, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao noted today that in FY 2004 the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provided over \$110 million in grants to remove young workers from abusive work situations and improve access to quality basic education in areas with a high incidence of exploitive child labor.

"The United States is the world leader in funding programs to eliminate abusive child labor," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "This Administration is committed to working with our partners around the world to rescue child soldiers and other children who have been trafficked. We cannot give them back their childhoods, but we can help them get an education and build better futures for themselves.

The Labor Department awarded \$67.5 million in grants under its Child Labor Education Initiative, most through a competitive bidding process. In addition, the Labor Department contributed approximately \$42.7 million to the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) for programs to address child labor in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East. The depart-

ment's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) contributed to the design of these projects and is responsible for monitoring the progress of all DOL-funded international child labor projects.

DOL funds five types of projects, including:

- Targeted programs that address exploitive child labor in a specific industry in a country or region;
- Education programs that focus on child laborers or children at risk;
- Research and statistical programs to collect data necessary to define the extent of exploitive child labor in a country or region and to measure progress made toward the goal of eliminating child labor;
- Projects to support a country's active participation in IPEC; and
- Comprehensive national programs to achieve dramatic reductions in exploitive child labor within a fixed time period.

"The United States remains committed to the global campaign to eliminate the worst forms of exploitive labor that place children in harm's way while depriving them of the opportunity to prepare for a better future by attending school," said Deputy Under Secretary for International Labor Affairs Arnold Levine.  
(end text)

#### OBSTACLES REMAIN TO REPEAL OF U.S. TAX EXPORT BREAKS

Tobacco fight could stall bill aimed at settling trade dispute with EU

By Bruce Odessey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Negotiators from the Senate and House of Representatives are drafting a compromise bill that would repeal U.S. export tax breaks ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization (WTO), but plenty of obstacles remain to final passage.

After months of inaction, a House-Senate conference committee went back to work on the bill September 29. Representative Bill Thomas, Republican chairman of the conference, released the latest draft late October 4, just days ahead of Congress' scheduled recess October 8 until some time after the November elections.

Conferees were expected to continue working out issues at least October 5 and 6.

The underlying goal of the legislation is resolution of a longstanding dispute with the European Union (EU) over U.S. tax breaks to exporters under the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) law, and its successor regime, the Extraterritorial Income Act (ETI).

The WTO has repeatedly ruled that FSC/ETI provisions violate international trade rules and has authorized the EU to impose up to \$4 billion a year in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports. The EU began in March to impose tariffs of 5 percent on a wide range of U.S. products and said the rate would increase by 1 percentage point a month up to 17 percent. As of October 1, the tariff rate was 12 percent.

Even though no serious opposition to FSC/ETI repeal has emerged, controversy abounds over some of the scores of tax breaks for individual industries in the 633-page draft.

Probably most controversial is the tobacco provision. In order to secure passage in the House of an earlier version of the bill, Thomas included \$10 billion to buy out quotas held by tobacco-growing farmers for decades but no longer profitable.

The Senate-passed version of a tobacco buyout provision would also require Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco products for the first time. Thomas' latest draft includes the Senate-passed buyout provision, which would require the tobacco industry to pay the cost of the buyout, but does not include the FDA regulation provision.

FDA regulation is known to be anathema to Representative Tom DeLay, the Republican House majority leader, and other House Republicans, but senators of both political parties have threatened to prevent final passage in the Senate of the entire bill without it.

To become law, a bill must be passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives and be signed by the president. As the conference continues its work, however, Treasury Secretary John Snow wrote October 4 letters to Thomas and Senator Chuck Grassley, the senior Senate Republican negotiator, raising serious objections to numerous special interest tax breaks passed in the earlier House and Senate versions.

“Legislation taking up more than 1,000 pages of statutory language (or even 400 pages) goes far beyond the bill’s core objective of replacing the FSC/ETI tax provisions with broad-based tax relief that is WTO-compliant,” the letters say. “The administration will work with the conferees to eliminate these narrowly crafted provisions.”

Snow’s letters contain no veto threat over any bill that contains special-interest tax breaks. They add more doubt, however, about whether Congress would give the bill final passage before the election.

The Thomas draft would reduce taxes over 10 years to corporations as well as sole proprietors, partnerships and other small businesses. Offsetting the cost would be scores of provisions for raising revenue by closing tax loopholes, including those related to foreign tax shelters. Snow’s letters commend provisions closing loopholes and tax avoidance schemes. They generally approve a tobacco buyout provision but say nothing about FDA regulation.

Thomas’ draft appears to have dropped provisions of earlier bills that are opposed by the Bush administration. One would have offered international corporations temporary slashed tax rates for repatriating foreign income now held abroad. Another would have repealed a new Labor Department regulation on overtime pay.

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**Please Note:** Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage [www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch). Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”